Unsafe lead levels in water at state Capitol

An initial result of tests done at the Capitol shows a lead level of 15 ppb, which is below the acceptable level of 25 ppb. The tests were conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and were part of a routine inspection. The results will be further analyzed and additional tests will be conducted to ensure safety.

School tests show lead in water at Kicher schools

A recent report shows that lead has been found in the water at Kicher schools. The lead levels range from 5 to 10 ppb, which is above the acceptable level of 15 ppb. The state has been notified and steps are being taken to address the issue. The schools have been advised to use bottled water for drinking.

Water: Cummins lacks the only option

A new Water meter was installed in the state Capitol, but it was found to be faulty. The replacement meter was also found to be faulty. The state has been struggling to find a solution to the problem, and the water supply has been disrupted. The state is considering importing water from another source until a permanent solution is found.

Lead found in water at Kicher schools

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LEAD RESULTS VARY WIDELY

Newly required testing complete, Salem-Keizer takes action

TRAICY LOEW "Nobody should worry about their child drinking out of a fountain or classroom faucet that tested high."

"Nobody should worry about their child drinking out of a fountain or classroom faucet that tested high." JAY REMY

OREGON SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTER

More than a hundred taps throughout the Salem-Keizer School District have been shut off because of high lead levels. That means teachers and staff can return to school this week confident that the water is safe, district spokesman Jay Remy said Friday.

"Nobody should worry about their child drinking out of a fountain or classroom faucet that tested high," Remy said.

The district received the final results Friday from tests of all taps used for drinking or cooking at a total of 81 schools and other buildings. Further tests will show how best to fix problem taps.

"We anticipate replacing a lot of fixtures," Remy said.

Oregon health and education officials asked school districts statewide to test their taps for lead this summer, and now require districts to post results within five days of receiving them.

Districts in Marion and Polk counties have compiled varying degrees, though the directive resulted in some confusion.

Dallas School District, for example, was among the first to complete its tests. But the district threw out all 87 results after discovering a collection error, facilities director Kevin Montague said.

"With all the confusion surrounding the requirements, the lab gave us the filter kits to test for 25 parts per billion instead of the 220 milliilter kit to test for 20 parts per billion, which is the actual EPA action level for schools," Montague said.

The district will test again this fall, he said.

Districts also are using different action levels; the level at which it will take a tap out of service until levels can be lowered.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends that schools take out taps if water levels exceed 10 parts per billion. But no level of lead is safe, and experts say high levels can occur at levels as low as 5 ppb.

As a result, at least three local school districts — Salem-Keizer, Willamette ESD, and St. Paul — have chosen a lower action level of 5 ppb.

That means water that's considered unsafe in those districts would pass in others.

The state's directive to test during the summer also caused confusion.

The EPA recommends against testing during weekends or vacations because the water will have sat in the pipes for a long time to represent typical values during most days of the week.

Districts are using various tactics to compensate for that.

Salem-Keizer, for example, flushed each building's plumbing system the night before testing and calculated the EPA says could skew results either high or low.

Of the local districts that have completed testing, only two — St. Paul and Willamette ESD — have not had any taps test above the action level.

Willamette ESD is going a step further and providing bottled water at sites where even trace amounts of lead were found, Superintendent Brian Kophard said.

WESD has asked the owners of those buildings to work to reduce lead levels at those taps.

Four local districts haven't complied with the new state rule requiring them to publicly post results within five days of receiving them:

- In Fall City, seven of 64 samples above the district's action level, the district reported on its website. Results are not posted but can be requested in the high school office, according to the website. Superintendent Jack Thompson did not respond to the newspapers' questions or request for test results.

- In the Gervais School District, several taps were tested and came back within acceptable limits, according to the district's website. But locations and results are not posted, and Superintendent Matt Henry did not respond to questions.

- In North Santiam, Superintendent Andrew Gardner did not respond to specific written questions, but said all schools are fine except a fountain at Stayton High School, which has been replaced. Results are not posted on the district's website, and Gardner declined the newspaper's request for them.

See WATER, Page 6A

Water

Hazards in older homes

Not a day goes by that we don't hear about lead in the drinking water in our schools. Said to say these levels exceed federal standards in almost all cases. Now consider your own home. In many cases those homes are almost as old as — or older than — many schools. Therefore, unless they have been extensively remodeled, they contain galvanized water pipes with lead. What are the lead levels in your residence? And while you are thinking about it, consider for a moment about asbestos and lead paint in your home. Many older homes built before 1950 may contain these and many other hazards.

744-7 RICHARD BARBER

Gresham
Leak testing: First round done

This is the first round of leak testing, and we have completed the testing in all districts.
The Water Quality Program has conducted a major testing of water systems throughout the county, and has found that most of the schools have met the necessary standards.

No major red flags in school water testing

Wallowa lead free; Imnaha 'good,' other schools awaiting final results

By Kathleen Elynn

Wallowa County, Oregon

Lead testing in Wallowa county school systems is now underway, and preliminary results have been released. The State Board of Education is requiring draft plans for testing for both lead and arsenic by Oct. 1, with a final plan due by Jan. 1.

Wallowa County ESD organized the testing through Box R Water Lab of Prineville, which sent a technician to assist the districts. The samples were then sent on to Nelson Research Corp. in Medford.

Results are back for Wallowa School District.

"No red flags," said superintendent Lance Hammon.

"We're all good," Housen said Tuesday. "We tested Imnaha and it was good."
BY SETH GORDON
Newberg Graphic reporter

The drinking water in Newberg Public Schools has passed a clean bill of health after the district tested a total of 121 outlets for lead contamination in June.

The biggest takeaway for the district was that all of the 40 drinking fountains in the 14 buildings that will be used this coming school year tested well below the EPA’s maximum contamination level of 20 parts per billion (ppb).

A few problems were identified, however, as 10 outlets showed levels above the limit. Most of those were sinks that are not intended for drinking water but were being used for food preparation.

The district replaced the faucets on most outlets that tested over the limit and drew new samples to be tested by Aleinix Analytical Laboratories in Tigard. The district is still waiting for results on most of them even after paying extra to have them expedited.

These outlets will also remain shut off until test results show the water to be safe.

“They really oversampled,” district communications director Claudia Stewart said. “They took two samples on each of the fountains. If a sample shows the water is acceptable, we then discard the rest of them.”

Two of the outlets that tested over the EPA limit — a drinking fountain in a portable classroom at 6.1 ppb and a computer room sink at 6.4 ppb — are located at Silas Academy. The district is not operating that program this year due to a lack of students.

Due to the time crunch the facility staff was under as it prepared to get buildings ready for the school year, the district has not yet replaced the fixtures on those outlets, according to Stewart, but does plan to address them.

The district has received the results from the second round of testing for two outlets and both came in below the EPA standard.

Although drinking fountains were the primary target, all of the Newberg School District’s fixtures were tested for lead in the water.

BY SETH GORDON
Newberg Graphic reporter

In the latest attempt to address possible lead contamination in drinking water, the Oregon Department of Education approved new rules that will require school districts to submit health and safety inspection plans annually.

ODD approved the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan Aug. 17 and requires local school districts to submit a draft plan that includes guidelines for regular sample testing of both school water for lead and air for radon gas, as well as to reduce exposure to lead in paint and its pest management practices.

Everything in the plan except for the water testing was already required of schools, but part of the state wanted all of the safety protocols to be collected in one place that was readily available to the public.

The new regulations do not require schools to actually test for lead in water, but to have a plan to do so. The Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority determined that they don’t have the legal authority to require testing. That will have to be done by the Legislature, which is expected to take up the topic in its upcoming session.

State requires schools to submit safety plans

All schools’ fixtures are tested

From page 1

Clark had no cause for further regulation to address the fact that the level of contamination was still below the standard.

Stewart said facilities staff are still discussing how to address a few outlets that are still below the limit. A decision on how to handle such outlets, though, may be included in the draft Healthy and Safe Schools Plan that the district is expected to submit to the Oregon Department of Education by Oct. 1 (see accompanying story).

The district is also awaiting the second round of results for four other out builds at NEHS — a prep sink (6.3) and a regular sink (6.6) in Filzling, and two sinks (6.1) in Filzling — that initially tested over the limit.

Two faucets at Mcloughlin South Elementary School were replaced after testing over the limit. A prep sink (9.2) ppb that was retested registered as “no detection,” meaning the level of lead contamination was lower than 2 ppb, while a sink in the cafeteria on a second sink that tested at 20.

Lastly, Mountain View Middle School had a kitchen sink test at 21.8 ppb and is awaiting results from the retest.

Of the 80 drinking fountains that are still to be tested, only one in Silas Academy, 0.6, showed a detection when tested, with eight registering between 2.1 and 5.0 ppb. Those fountains showed levels above 5.0 ppb, with the highest concentration coming in at 5.8.

Per standards set by the Oregon Health Authority, district staff followed procedures for testing and remediation found in the EPA’s guidelines manual “A Test for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools.”

The test prescribed is known as a “frist drill” and is intended to simulate regular use.

Water in the outlet is run for approximately two minutes and then shut off for between 4 and 38 hours before a 300 milliliter sample is drawn.

Of the 173 outlets tested, 88 registered as “no detection” and 32 tested between 2.1 and 5.0 ppb. Of the remaining 53 that tested over the 5.0 ppb limit, 26 were between 5.1 and 10.0 ppb, 15 were between 11.0 and 15.0 ppb, and 12 were between 16.1 and 30.0 ppb.

Full results of the testing are available on the district’s website at www.newberg.k12.or.us/district/food-sec/safe-school-drinking-fountains.

Stewart said the district has sent out e-mails to follow up with athletic coaches to make sure that drinking water is used for practices and games is drawn from outlets intended for drinking and therefore have been tested.
Elevated lead levels found in two Colton schools

Drinking fountains shut down. Bottled water to be available to all students in the buildings

BY CINDY FAMA
Colton Pioneer

Elevated levels of lead contamination were found in water samples taken at Colton Elementary and Colton Middle schools and at the district office, according to the Colton Water District.

The Environmental Protection Agency standard for acceptable lead levels in water is 0.015 mg/L (milligrams per liter) or 15 PPS (parts per billion).

The lead levels in Colton schools ranged from 0.031 mg/L at the middle school to 0.064 mg/L at the elementary school and 0.0886 mg/L at the district office.

Water for the tests was collected in early July, and with school out for a few weeks, the water sat stagnant in the flow pipes for a number of weeks before the draw was taken, according to the water district report.

Colton School District Superintendent Jay Konik questions the findings published in the report.

"That the water was not flushed for a few weeks could influence the analysis and test results," Konik said. "We are having an independent test done on Sept. 12, and will determine what steps need to be taken based on those results."

The school received the analysis report from Alexon Analytical Laboratories, Inc. on Sept. 1 and immediately made the decision to have bottled water available for all students in the school buildings.

Drinking fountains in the school buildings will be wrapped in plastic to indicate that they are not to be used.

"These steps will stay in effect until lead levels are resolved," CES and CMS principal Susan Innan said.

Colton High School had no detectable levels of lead in their water.

According to the water district, the pipes leading to the high school have been updated within the last 20 years.

Most of the district cafeteria food is prepared at the high school and transported to CES and CMS.

Two homes in Colton tested at the same time, one on South Wall Street and the other on South Scheffer Road, showed no detectable amounts of lead in the water.

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SCHOOL STATUS

Adams Elementary School
All affected fixtures have been permanently disabled or replaced and retested. All fixtures are approved for drinking water.

Garfield Elementary School
All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. All fixtures are open for use except room 10, which is not currently used as a classroom. Alternate drinking water sources have been identified for that room.

Hoover Elementary School
No fixtures exceeded EPA action levels on initial sampling. Fixtures in rooms 1 and 3 showed slightly elevated lead levels. As part of the district's response this summer, fixtures were replaced and the district is awaiting final test results. Alternate drinking water will be provided for these classrooms.

Jefferson Elementary School
All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. Partial results were received and the following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 2 and 10, the gym, and kitchen. The district is awaiting final test results on the remaining locations.

Lincoln Elementary School
All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. Staff and students will review safe drinking water locations on the first day of school and staff will ensure hand washing only locations for compliance. The following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17.

Mountainside Elementary School
All affected classroom fixtures have been replaced and retested. Additional locations continue to test high for lead content. Fixtures in classrooms 22, 23, and 24 were available for hand washing only and alternate drinking water will be provided.

Wilson Elementary School
All affected classroom fixtures have been replaced and retested. Multiple locations continue to test high for lead content. Fixtures inside classrooms will be available for hand washing only locations for compliance. The following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 18, 19, 20, 21.

Franklin K-8 School
All affected fixtures have been replaced and retested. Partial results have been received. The following locations continue to be closed for drinking water: rooms 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37. Alternate drinking water will be provided until all test results are received and adequate safe drinking water locations within the building have been established.

Central Hills Elementary School
Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures is scheduled for September. Kitchen fixtures were replaced and retested and opened for use. In initial testing, 11 fixtures showed elevated lead levels in the following areas: classrooms 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40.

Lincoln Middle School
None of the 49 fixtures sampled showed elevated lead levels during initial testing.

College Hill/Start Center
Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures in these locations is scheduled for September.

Corvallis High School
Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures in an auxiliary building is scheduled for September. The main building had no fixtures test positive for elevated lead levels during initial testing. Additional testing locations were identified by the athletic department; some of these locations had elevated lead levels. The kitchen fixtures were replaced and retested. Although some fixtures remain closed, enough fixtures are open to support kitchen operations.

Crescent Valley High School
Replacement and retesting of classroom fixtures is scheduled for September. Additional testing locations were identified by the athletic department; some of these locations had elevated lead levels. The kitchen fixtures were replaced and retested. The number of fixtures remains unchanged, but enough fixtures are open to support kitchen operations.

Visit http://www.corvallis.org/CSO-Water-Quality for more information about the status of lead in Corvallis school district.
State education board adopts lead testing rule

By Fets Achen
Batavia Co.

SILVERTON, Ore. — The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report their results to the public.

The board in June agreed to fast-track adoption of the new rule at the request of Gov. Kate Brown, after widespread media coverage of a scandal in Portland Public Schools over lead in drinking water that went unreported.

The rule requires school districts to submit a preliminary plan for testing for both lead and copper by Oct. 1, with a final plan due by Jan. 1. While the rule gives no specific deadline for testing, it does require districts to report results to the public within five business days and to send out an annual report.

"What we like about this plan is that part of what we saw in Portland was the community didn’t have access to information, and in fact, when you have large institutions information can get lost over the years," said Emily Nacev, Oregon policy analyst with the Oregon Department of Education, who helped shape the rule.

"By creating a plan you have one place that community members and parents can back to find out how the school district addresses risks, how does the school district plan to address water?"

A sink that tested positive for elevated lead levels has been shut off and tagged. The Oregon Board of Education adopted a new rule Wednesday that for the first time requires school districts to test for lead in water at district-owned buildings and report their results to the public.

The Board of Education pushed ahead with the rule despite protests from school advocates who said the timeline was too tight and expressed worry about where to find money to address the cost of testing and mitigation.

"You are setting up a framework by which we have assurances at the state level that our schools are taking action in a comprehensive way toward health and safety," said Oregon Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. "It's an imperative that every student should be entitled to."

The requirement will entail hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to schools in the form of testing, supplying bottle water, mitigating and testing individuals who might have been exposed to high levels of lead, according to the Oregon School Boards Association.

Portland Public Schools estimates that taking those steps will cost the district an estimated $7 million, said Joe VanWey, the district’s chief director of risk management.

The cost of just testing lead in water for drinking and food preparation in estimated to cost $110,000 for a small district and about $1 million for a large district, according to district representatives who attended a July 25 meeting of the proposed rule.

Legislative leaders have asked the Oregon Board of Education to allocate money in September to pay for costs of testing but not mitigation, Nacev of ODE said. The Legislative Fiscal Office is working on a proposal to present to the Oregon Board next week.

Gov. Brown in April directed the Oregon Department of Education and Oregon Health Authority to review existing requirements for environmental testing and address the problem of lead in drinking water. During the review, health and education officials learned that neither the education department nor the health authority had rules to require schools to test for lead.

The health authority has been responsible for requiring testing of public water systems, but schools are excluded from the agency’s jurisdiction. The proposed rule would require school districts, charter schools and educational service districts to conduct lead and copper testing and to submit an environmental monitoring plan to ODE for keeping water, air and physical spaces safe for students and staff.

The health authority already had authority to require schools to test for radon, but the new rule will provide comprehensive guidance to schools on all of the testing required. Schools will be required to report their test results to the education department and to the community annually.

The agencies asked schools to test for lead during the summer. Most of the districts have either completed or are in the process of testing, Nacev said. The agencies recommended that schools identify sources of lead, stop access to the problem areas, and provide any necessary funding to schools.

A survey of 198 schools earlier this month by the ODE found that a third of respondents were in the process of testing drinking water for lead. Most of the other 12 percent had either already tested water or had plans to do so after classes resume in the fall.

Cafe tests high for lead

Six taps at Willamette University exceeded 'action level'

TRACY LORW
STAFF JOURNAL

Six taps at Willamette University have tested high for lead, including one attached to the coffee station in the Colby Cafe.

Willamette completed testing last month on all potential sources of drinking water in university-owned buildings, with the exception of a residence hall that was undergoing renovations, spokesman Adam Torgeron said.

"This was the first time lead had been found at levels high enough to necessitate removal of the taps," he said.

Taps that exceeded the "action level" of 15 parts per billion (ppb) were in two main buildings and a third-floor house.

In the University Center, a first-floor men's restroom sink tested at 31 ppb; a first-floor washing fountain in Cat Canyon tested at 20 ppb; and the Cat Canyon coffee bar tap tested at 29.7 ppb. A tap in an off-campus rental house tested at 27 ppb.

All of the taps were capped immediately, and repairs were completed Sept. 2.

There is no safe level of lead, and experts say health effects can vary at levels as low as 5 ppb. Lead isn't present in Salem's drinking water sources, but can leach from lead pipes, fittings and fixtures.

Oregon health and education officials recently urged school districts to test for lead in drinking water.

See LEAD, Page 24

Lead

Six taps at Willamette University have tested high for lead.
Dealing with lead

The revelation last week that there was lead in water collected from drinking fountains and sink faucets at some Baker City schools, and at levels that exceed federal standards, naturally worries parents.

Lead is a neurotoxin that can reduce a child's ability to learn. According to the federal government, there is no amount of lead, in the body, that's considered safe.

What's less certain, however, is the correlation between lead in drinking water, whether in schools or homes, and the risk that students who drink that water could have elevated levels of lead in their blood as a result.

Even the experts acknowledge this deficiency in the data. A 2012 study from the National Center for Environmental Health notes that "the effects of water lead levels on (blood lead levels) of children...is difficult to measure." The same study found that "household dust tainted with lead from paint, or lead paint itself in older homes, poses the greatest risk of elevating children's lead levels. (Lead paint for residential use has been banned in the U.S. since 1978.)"

Generally speaking, though, the nation, largely by banning lead in gasoline and food cans as well as house paint, has made significant progress in reducing lead concentrations. Studies show conclusively that since the 1970s the lead levels in air, water, food, dust, and soil have dropped substantially according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And the average lead level in American children's blood has declined as well during that period.

A 2009 study published in Pediatrics found that the percentage of American children with elevated levels of lead in their blood dropped by 84 percent from the period 1988-91 to 1999-2004 — from 8.6 percent of children in the former period to 1.4 percent in the latter.

But with lead, which accumulates in the body throughout our lives, reducing any source, however significant, is worthwhile.

Which is why the Baker School District's actions shutting off drinking fountains and sinks where tests showed elevated lead levels are necessary.

These sources should remain off limits until officials have determined the source of the lead — most likely the solder used to connect pipes, or lead in the pipes themselves — and replaced the fixtures that contain lead.

We're troubled, however, that it took a major scandal in Portland Public Schools earlier this year — officials there had not detected the public to elevated lead levels in water from tests done years ago — to prompt both Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to recommend all schools test for lead, and, just a few weeks ago, for the Oregon Department of Education to adopt a rule requiring schools to submit plans that include a testing regimen for lead. This belated response is particularly problematic considering that four years have passed since the CDC lowered the threshold for what's considered an abnormally high level in a child's blood.

But in 2012, the federal government considered blood lead levels of 10 micrograms per deciliter, in children 6 or younger, as a "level of concern." Since then, however, the CDC has designated 5 micrograms per deciliter as the threshold. That concentration is higher than the lead level for about 97.5 percent of children 6 and younger.

Despite this recognition of the problems lead poses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, although in 1991 Lead and Copper Rule requires cities to test their drinking water, the rule only recommends that public schools do the same. This doesn't make sense, considering that the most common source of lead in water is not the water source itself, but plumbing fixtures.

The ultimate goal, as the CDC points out, should be to protect children from all potential sources of lead exposure. And although the available evidence suggests that drinking water in public schools might not be one of the larger sources, it's also one that we can, and should, eliminate.
School officials await final results of recent tests

By John L. Brunn<br>Meritor Enterprise<br>

VALLE - The Vale School District is awaiting results of tests for lead that were conducted Aug. 31, as districts across the state examine their water systems for lead problems.

Superintendent Scott Lienenberger said 80 tests were ordered for the Vale schools, but about 40 were put on back order because of the high demand. He said it takes about four to six weeks to get the results back.

Although it's not a mandate, the state asked local school districts this summer to test for lead in their kitchen taps and other sources of water. While some schools have reported increased levels, others are finding no problems in their water systems.

The Vale district's lead concerns arose much earlier, when slightly elevated lead levels were reported in the Willow Creek Elementary School water system last year. The tests were done after the plumbing fixtures in the kindergarten, first and second grade rooms were replaced.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets a limit of 15 parts per billion for lead, and Willow Creek tested at 15.9 parts per billion in September 2015.

"We notified parents right away of the results of the tests," said Lienenberger. "We immediately shut down the two lines affected.

Willow Creek was one of 10 schools across the state to test above the EPA limit. Officials say lead enters the drinking system when soft water corrodes the plumbing system, releasing lead from older pipes and fixtures.

The danger is that exposure to lead can lead to a multitude of problems in children.

Water

From Page 1

including stomach problems and brain damage. Health officials also warn that children absorb metals like lead at higher rates than adults.

Schools are required to test their water, even those obtaining water from a well.

For Vale, Lienenberger said, "The Oregon Health Authority stated testing was not necessary due to being on the city water system.

"When the problems came up in Willow Creek, we decided to conduct testing on both drinking fountains and food prep areas. We are just waiting for the results."

Future plans are to either replace the affected lines or place an additive into the lines.

"We are taking kids currently to remedy the problem," he said. "In addition, we have notified parents this year of the problem and posted a notice on the front door to the school." Students are bringing water from home or drinking from other lines in the buildings. Lienenberger said.

The demand for test kits remains an obstacle.

Lienenberger said the test kits ordered in June did not arrive until mid-August and then it was just half the order.

Other local districts also are checking their water quality. Both Nyssa and Ontario school districts have conducted lead tests on their water systems.

The Oregon district released tests results in mid-August showing no alarming problems. Testing 31 separate locations throughout the school, only one, a hand washing station, was found to be above the accepted levels.

The testing took samples from drinking fountains, food preparation areas and hand-wash stations. The one problem station tested at 21.3 parts per billion for lead.

The Nyssa district also tested its water, a practice that is completed on a yearly basis. In testing drinking fountains both inside and outside buildings, none came out above 10 parts per billion.

School board to discuss lead tests

By Chris Collins<br>City Shepherd<br>Byline: Chris Collins<br>City Shepherd<br>

Superintendent Mark Willy is scheduled to give an update on the district's actions to test for lead in the water supply and the respective action that has been taken.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the north conference room of the District Office, 2000 Fourth St. Willy also will discuss the new locker system at Brooklyn Primary School and the district's plans to distribute its own newspaper.

He also will present information about the Oregon School Boards Association's 2016 full regional meeting and the Oregon Department of Education's Technical Assistance Program.

The meeting will begin with presentations to Steven Deters and Araminta Evans, for their work on the Oregon EdTech Professional Development Cadre.

New extra duty hires to be announced during the meeting are Lisa White, seventh-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach, Michael McGreal, eighth-grade volleyball coach.

The board is expected to take action on hiring Tommie Demme as Brooklyn Primary School music teacher. And directors will award contracts through the Food Service program on bids for food and catering items, milk and produce.

The board also is expected to act on an ORBA Board of Director's nominations form for Kevin Carty, board chair.

In preparation to the regular meeting, the Beaver School Board will convene a work session with a representative from the Oregon School Boards Association at 2 p.m. Thursday, Kristin Miller will provide instruction on the Promoine Scholarship Project: Monitoring Student Achievement.

After the regular meeting, the board will move to executive (closed to the public) session to negotiate property transactions and to conclude labor negotiations.

The board will return to open session and then adjourn.

Full disclosure
Baker City, OR
(Baker Co.)
Herald
(Cir. S.W. 3,246)

SEP 14 2016

Allen's P.G. D. Est. 1900

7/4/7

Baker Schools Shut Down Water Sources With Excessive Levels Of Lead

Fixing The Faucets

Baker Middle School principal Chris Carmenske chats with Nestle Reed, a seventh-grade student, as he refills his water bottle from a new, lead-free fountain installed previously on the first floor.

By Chris Collins
chk@baker.ny.rr.com

Thanks to three new water-filtering drinking fountains installed at Baker Middle School this year, students have experienced little inconvenience after tests showed unacceptable levels of lead in the water flowing from some older fixtures at the school.

Two of the old-style drinking fountains — one on the north end of the lower hall and one in the boys locker room — have been shut off after lead levels exceeding 20 parts per billion (ppb) were found in water from those fixtures.

Federal standards call for schools to stop using water sources where tests show lead levels above 20 ppb.

A water sample from the drinking fountain in the boys locker room at BMS was found to have a lead level of 65.7 ppb. Water at the fountain in the lower hallway had a lead level of 73.8 ppb.

In all, 20 of 111 water samples — four drinking fountains and 16 sinks — from four schools in the Baker School District had lead levels above 20 ppb.

Water from these 20 sources is not being used. In addition to the two drinking fountains at the Middle School, seven sinks — six in the upstairs science room and one in the cooking room — had lead levels above 20 ppb. Water has been shut off to those sinks, said Chris Carmenske, BMS principal.

LEAD LEVELS IN BAKER SCHOOLS

BAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
• Drinking fountain north end, first floor — 73.8 ppb
• Drinking fountain in boys locker room — 65.7 ppb
• Sink, science room — 48.2 ppb
• Sink, science room — 32.7 ppb
• Sink, science room — 32.2 ppb
• Sink, science room — 23.9 ppb
• Sink, science room — 28.5 ppb
• Sink, science room — 25.4 ppb
• Sink, junior classroom No. 3 — 23.5 ppb

SOUTH BAKER INTERMEDIATE
• Sink, music room No. 29 — 67 ppb
• Sink, library room No. 23 — 65.7 ppb
• Sink, space by stage, No. 9 — 38.3 ppb
• Drinking fountain, 6th grade hall — 41.1 ppb
• Sink, staff room No. 20 — 39.3 ppb
• Sink, 6th grade classroom No. 24 — 36.6 ppb
• Drinking fountain, music room No. 29 — 33.9 ppb
• Sink, 5th grade classroom No. 19 — 26.5 ppb

NORTH BAKER EDUCATION CENTER
• Sink, Web Academy room, 3rd floor — 49.6 ppb
• Sink, vacant office, 1st floor — 29.4 ppb
• Sink, Web Academy office, 1st floor — 21.9 ppb
Other Baker County schools

At Burnt River School in Unity, two of six sites tested were found to have lead levels in the water above the 20 parts per billion allowable threshold. superintendent Lori Andrews said one site was a drinking fountain and the other a sink. Both are in south end of the building, which has been out of use for the past several years.

Water in the fountain showed lead levels of 30.5 parts per billion and the water in the sink showed lead levels of 52.8 parts per billion, Andrews said.

No elevated levels were found in tests conducted at Powder Valley Charter School, the report, which is posted on the school's website at powdervalley.org, under announcements, lists results from 68 tests conducted July 12.

"We will continue to monitor this and keep communicating to parents and our community," Superintendent Lance Dixon, stated on the website.

Likewise at Huntington, no harmful levels of lead were found in the three sites tested at the Huntington School District. Those results along with other testing results are posted on the district's website Huntington.k12.or.us under environmental testing.

At the Pine Eagle Charter School in Halfway, superintendent Camille deCastro wrote in an email to the Herald that the school will be working to develop a plan for testing, reporting and mitigating "any possible lead" in the school's water system. No testing has been done at this time.

The preliminary health and safety plan will be developed in line with new rules adopted by the state Board of Education on Aug. 1, she said.

She noted that schools that do not have their own water supply are not, at this time, required to conduct lead testing.

"As Pine Eagle works through the development of our district plan, a determination will be made as to the need for testing of our facilities, and that determination will be included in the overall health and safety plan," she stated.

More information is available by calling the Pine Eagle Charter School office at 541-342-3630.

— Chris Collins
Three UO residence halls have lead issue

Some faucets in Walton, Hamilton, Barnhart and Buhl halls may have elevated levels

By DIANE DUFFY
The Register-Guard
SEP 16 2016

About one-fifth of the faucets in three University of Oregon residence halls run with lead-tainted water — and a fourth hall is very likely to have some of the same.

Crowe either found or are concerned about elevated levels in Walton, Hamilton, Barnhart and Buhl halls.

The UO didn’t release specific numbers but said they are above the 10 parts per billion set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency as allowable in water for human consumption.

As a precaution, the university is asking students moving into the affected halls in coming weeks not to drink or cook with any of the tap water and, instead, use university-provided bottled water for those purposes.

"Using those fixtures for anything is fine," the UO said.

Human skin does not absorb lead in water, according to the EPA.

The affected halls are all more than 20 years old. Barnhart was built in 1956, Bean in 1954, Hamilton in 1952, and Walton in 1957 and 1958.

The university plans to replace the fixtures and reset the water.

Drinking water with elevated lead levels, though time can lower IQ or lead to hyperactivity in children, according to the EPA. Pregnant women may give birth early or to smaller-than-normal babies.

The university launched a water quality monitoring program in late spring.

Turn to WATER, Page A1

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ECHO

Water fountain tests slightly above lead limit

Retesting underway, results expected soon

By GEORGE PLAVER
East Oregonian
744-7

An upstairs water fountain has tested positive for slightly elevated levels of lead at Echo School, prompting a re-test and possible replacement of the pipe.

Lab results were released by the school district Wednesday, and also of the 41 sites that were tested turned up no signs of lead, one fountain did measure above the threshold for taking corrective action as set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA’s action limit is 20 parts per billion of lead. The fountain measure exceeded that mark at 34 parts per billion. Nevertheless, it has been closed off to students and faculty until the problem is addressed, said Echo Superintendent Raymond Smith.

"We will continue to monitor this and keep communicating to parents and our community," Smith said.

In the month, elevated levels of lead were also found in 10 drinking fountains at McKay Creek Elementary School in Pendleton. Students are set to return to school after this week's Pendleton Round-Up, and Superintendent Andy Kerch said all of the fixtures will be replaced and re-tested. He hasn't been closed off to students and faculty until the problem is addressed, said Echo Superintendent Raymond Smith.

The plan requests that all school districts receiving their drinking water from a public water system test for lead in their buildings. Local testing is done by Table Rock Analytical Lab, and the results are reported back to OBA.

Smith said they decided to re-test their drinking fountain since testing was initially done while school was not in session. The water supply may be considered the highest level of lead. The plan requests that all school districts receiving their drinking water from a public water system test for lead in their buildings. Local testing is done by Table Rock Analytical Lab, and the results are reported back to OBA.

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Schools back for lead testing
State Legislature could pay

Find out more
30 million
No lead test results

School districts

School district

School district

School district

School district

School district
Health

**Lead report for RCC due out this week**

Students staff advised not to drink water in Riverside Campus buildings

By Ryan Piel

The Tribune

Concerns about lead and copper in the drinking water at a Rogue Community College Riverside campus building have had students and faculty wonder whether to use the water since August. A report on the cause of the problem is due this week, and officials say the report's findings will dictate what steps need to be taken next. No matter what the report shows, however, RCC officials said they plan to keep the building closed until all questions and concerns are addressed and resolved.

"Community and student safety is number one, so no matter what the report is, we will be inspecting all these campuses over," said college spokeswoman Sarah Walker. "We're going to check water levels at every building.

Tests on the drinking water at Building B, located on the Riverside Campus in Medford, were prompted after an employee reported seeing cloudy water at the fountain last month. Walker said that fountain was closed immediately. Preliminary testing showed lead levels were 1.1 parts per billion, almost double Environmental Agency's limit for acceptable lead levels in drinking water, or 15 parts per billion. The preliminary results showed copper levels on the campus exceeded EPA guidelines, which has a 1.3 parts per million for the metal. Tests showed the building A fountain had 1.65 parts. A full report should be available Tuesday.

RCC officials closed the fountain and ordered tests immediately after being notified of the cloudy water. Students have since been advised not to use the fountain in the building.

Walker said RCC has hired an outside agency to conduct testing on the other fountain. The number of fountains on all campuses and costs associated with testing and repairs were not available.

"We don't know yet," Walker said. "Once we find the source of the problem, we will do whatever repairs are required to make it safe."

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**Schools could get $5 million to pay for lead testing**

By PAUL ANGER

The Tribune

Public schools could receive up to $5 million to help pay for the cost of testing for lead in campus drinking water, under a proposal lawmakers will consider Sept. 23.

The proposal sets aside a fund administered by the Oregon Department of Education. School districts could submit requests to request reimbursement for costs associated with lead testing between March and December this year.

The Legislative Fiscal Office has recommended that the Department of Education approve the $5 million in a placeholder until state education officials gain a better sense of how much school districts will request for reimbursement.

The education department could submit a proposal to the emergency board in December, if requests exceed $5 million, said Doug Wilson, a legislative fiscal analyst.

"This is signal to districts that we are putting money aside for lead testing," Wilson said of the recommendation.

The Oregon Association of School Business Officials conducted a survey of school districts this summer to try to estimate the cost of testing. About 100 districts, representing about half of the state student population, responded. The $5 million figure is roughly based on those district responses, Wilson said.

That amount equates to $50 for each test, including testing and a small amount to destroy the cost of collecting, he said. The amount doesn't account for any expenses associated with relocation of lead contamination.

Some larger school districts, such as Portland and Beaverton, used contractors to take water samples, which drove up the cost of testing, Wilson said.
St. Paul: Lead: LBCC shuts off 8 sinks

High levels found in LBCC dorm.

Water at St. Paul schools judged safe

Large numbers of students, faculty sampled for lead

By Satif Gordon

Woodburn, OR (Marion Co.)
Woodburn Independent
(Circ. W, 3,450)
SEP 2 2016

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1868

St. Paul sent its samples to Edge Analytics, which is based out of Burlington, Wash., but also has labs in Wilsonville and Corvallis.

Of the 23 sources tested, just three came back with a concentration higher than 5 parts per billion. Those three included the "D Center" drinking fountain (11 ppb), the science room sink (10.3 ppb) and the northeast hall drinking fountain in the elementary school (9.4 ppb).

Five fountains tested as "no detection," with the minimum threshold for detection being 1 part per billion. Full results are available online at www.stpaul.k12.or.us/ drinkingwater.

"We react as soon as the first reports came out and I was pretty certain that, No. 1, we just needed to do it because we have older buildings and older pipes," Wahl said. "I was assuming that it was going to be something that was going to be asked for, so we just went ahead. As busy as it got, I'm glad we started early."

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MIXED RESULTS

Lead tests show mixed results

In Lakeview schools

By Kurt Lindke
Lake County Examiner

In the wake of the Flint, Mich., water crisis, the State of Oregon demanded all school districts test water lines for lead content. Results of two tests conducted during the summer break were presented to the Lake County School District board of directors, with early results raising concern about lead content in sinks and drinking fountains.

Urged by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, the state legislature passed mandates for testing under the criteria that levels above 0.20 parts per million are deemed unsafe for consumption. According to LCSD/27 Superintendent Will Cahill, initial lead testing conducted over the summer showed several drinking fountains and sinks tested near or above the 0.20 level. An additional test was later conducted following the lines being flushed, and test results came in much lower overall, though a few specific older lines still came near 0.20. Cahill contributed the higher initial tests partly to sediment accumulation while lines sat largely stagnant during the summer, but indicated that testing high in lead levels have been flagged and removed from service while considering replacement of older drinking fountains or plumbing as needed. Older sinks in classrooms generally tested higher as the highest red flags.

"We are addressing everything we have tested, bringing in additional drinking water, and shutting down areas that are lead-heavy," said Cahill. "We are evaluating what fixtures may need to be replaced. After the first test we were a little shocked but following the second test our level of concern went down. We are concerned about our students.

MIXED RESULTS
See page 3

Albany schools
MIDWAY PLUMBING

Welcome gift; it's no cure for lead

JESSIE MOODY
Albany Democrat-Herald

Reports of high lead levels in the drinking water at some Albany schools had Lance and Stephanie King concerned. They figured their business, Midway Plumbing, might be able to help.

After generations, Midway has been doing community service projects for the last several years of Stephanie's grandfather. With daughter Melena Roberts, a 2012 West Albany High graduate, just starting a job as a first-grade teacher at Waverly Elementary, the Kings saw an opportunity.

The week before classes started, with permission from Greater Albany Public Schools, the Kings arranged for a new filtered water bottle filling station to be installed in the hallway at Waverly, not far inside the front door.

The donation ended up being a three-way partnership. Lance King contacted longtime valued customer Ed Yoshida of Erie Way Electric, intending to hire him for the wiring job, but Yoshida insisted on donating his effort. Stephanie King said. And when Midway's wholesaler, Standard Supply, heard about the project, it sold the unit to the Kings for cost.

"It was a win win," Stephanie King said. "We got a thank you and a really cute card from all the kids!" Albano tested all its drinking water sources for lead over the summer following a scare in the Portland district. After the initial testing, 11 of 21 buildings, including Waverly, came back testing at least one water source with levels considered too high.

"Some fixtures were taken out of service and will stay that way until they are replaced and tests show they are safe, the district said. Not all of those have been completed. Full reports for each school team are available at http://albany.k12.or.us/parents/water-testing-information/. Superintendent Tim Golden said the district is delighted with the bottle station gift, but noted that such units aren't a cure for high lead levels, even though they come with filters.

"It is his understanding that lead cannot be filtered without a specific "reverse osmosis" system, which the district plans to install either at outlets that are already certified as safe or any new systems that are tested and found to be safe. That was the case with the Kings' gift, which was tested before use," he said.

However, he said, encouraging kids to drink water is part of the district's wellness initiative, and providing filtered, cooled water is in line with that initiative.
Shuts off Water Fountains

Marion School District

Schools could get $5 million

from Oregon for lead testing
Crook County School District will likely seek reimbursement if available.
State will pay $25 million for shut-off capitols

Dinghony Fountains

Briefing

Event Date: 9/1/2016

Location: Capitol Grounds

SPE 2016

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(Reprinted with permission of)

Partner of the

Drumheller et al.
State to pay for schools’ lead testing

Oregon school districts may be reimbursed for money spent testing school taps for lead. On Friday, the Legislature’s joint emergency board reserved $5 million in general fund money to pay for the tests.

The Salem-Keizer School District completed testing taps in all 81 schools and other buildings just before school started, at an estimated cost of $300,000 to $500,000. While the reimbursement will be welcome, it won’t cover all the costs, district spokesman Jay Renny said. The state will pay lab testing fees, but not labor.

The district’s lab fees are estimated at about $67,113 to date, Renny said. It expects to spend another $5,000 to $8,000 by the end of the year.

More than a hundred taps in 37 district buildings were shut off because of high lead levels. One tap at Pringle Elementary School tested at 14,000 parts per billion – nearly three times the level the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers toxic waste.

A second sample from each of those taps is being analyzed to determine whether the problem is with the fixture or the plumbing.

Analysis of those second samples is complete at 17 schools. With a few exceptions, they show that the problems lie with the fixtures, such as faucets or water coolers.

State health and education officials had urged districts to test all taps used for drinking or cooking over the summer.

Districts that submitted samples between March 3, 2016 and Dec. 1, 2016 are eligible, subject to some conditions.

Education Service Districts and charter schools also are eligible.

In August, the State Board of Education adopted a rule requiring districts to test for lead to post results within five days of receiving them. Check the Salem-Keizer School District’s results at http://www.salem.k12.or.us/Parents/water-testing-information.

The Elgin School District has replaced the brass faucet at Stella Mayfield School to address lead levels in water fixtures.

School district says lead found

ELGIN

Continued from Page 1A

Portland, said School District Superintendent Dinnae Greif.

The drinking fountain has not been turned off and will not be used again until test results indicate that the lead levels in the water are below EPA standards. Tests will be conducted as soon as the district receives material samples from Prine Labs, Greif said.

“We are waiting for the testing supplies,” the superintendent said.

Open-collected water from the fountain will be sent to Prine Labs for analysis. Bottled water is being provided to students in the affected classroom until its water is determined to meet EPA standards, which is 20 parts per billion.

Overall, Greif said, she is pleased with how the lead testing went.

“We are happy that across the district there was a problem with just one fixture,” she said.

Greif said she is relieved because of the age of the school district’s buildings. In high school and Stella Mayfield School are several decades old. Water from older buildings is generally more likely to have higher lead levels.

“We thought there would be more fixtures with lead levels over the EPA limit,” Greif said.

The Elgin School District is among many in Oregon testing their water over the past summer. All school districts have completed or are undergoing testing after Gov. Kate Brown called on Oregon’s 197 school districts to craft procedures for testing lead, rubber and other chemicals in their campuses.

In mid-2015, the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority created a plan regarding lead in school water.

The plan requests all school districts that get water from public water systems test for lead in school buildings; requires districts to use certified water testing labs to process the water samples; asks ODE and OHA to develop a method for schools to report results to OHA; and calls for OHA to provide drinking water expertise to schools for support as they test.

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Tests Say No Lead In RR School Water

Brian Morhiane
Rogue River Press

Water at each of the three campuses in the Rogue River School District was determined to have no measurable amounts of lead during testing this summer.

With concern over lead in drinking water at various places in Oregon, including Medford, this year, the Rogue River School District took the initiative to have its water tested during the summer, Superintendent Paul Young said at the Rogue River School Board on Wed., Sept. 21.

Young showed the board the report prepared by Grants Pass Water Laboratory that showed that the water at each campus registered "NT" or "not enough to even report," Young said.

"Rogue River Elementary West passed with flying colors," Young said.

He said there was one spot where testers thought lead appeared, in a hand sink in the Rogue River Junior-Senior High School kitchen. That's not a source of drinking water, so it wasn't an immediate concern, but district facilities director Larry Pfeil contacted the water task.

The lab said the water from the sink wasn't tested correctly, so it was retested and found to have no detectable lead.

Young said one advantage the district has is that, for the past couple of years, it has switched out a lot of its drinking fountains and taken out a lot of the old plumbing connected to them.

Pfeil said five tests at each building site were conducted, including testing at perimeters of each campus to get an overall view. He said the City of Rogue River, which receives its water both from wells and the Rogue River, tests its water quality in locations around the city for arsenic and lead poisoning and found no lead.

Jamie Wright, RRJSHS Principal and Jan of Reed, RRES principal both reported increases in their student numbers at the beginning of the school year.

Wright said there were 67 new students at the junior/senior high school and Reed said the elementary school had 26 new students more than the school had at its highest point during the 2015-16 year.

The district reports a total student body count of 813 students, 453 at the elementary school, 360 at the junior/senior high school. Adding the 193 students at River's Edge Academy Charter School (REACH), the district's student body reaches four figures, at 1,004.

Dr. April Harrison, the district director of special programs, district attendance for this school year has been at 95.84 percent.

"I'm very happy because our goal last year was to be at 95 percent," she said. "The goal for the end of this school year is to be around 92 percent. If we continue on this trajectory, we're going to crush it."

Cecile Emigh, director at River's Edge, said her school's cruise program in Winem at the Evans Valley Educational Co-op had been a success. It has one teacher who works four days a week and a parent who has been working as an educational assistant. She said the Evans Valley location had given the school's more at-risk students an additional place to meet, and she said high school students there are beginning to take classes at RRJSHS.

Under Young's suggestion, the board allowed for REACH's enrollment ceiling to max out at 195, room for three more students under its current enrollment, to allow for the 223 Evans Valley students. As REACH's contract already allows 10 percent enrollment growth each year, but that would give the school just 192. The higher ceiling allows for the influx of students from Evans Valley, Young said.

REACH has 12 students, both in Rogue River and Wimer, who are planning to enter college next year. Those students meet at both locations, and on Fridays, the students go on field trips and meet with community members, including business owners, to talk about careers.

Pine said the elementary school is still waiting for 194 student desks, 23 teacher desks and 22 kidney-shaped tables that have yet been misplaced. He said a set of new benches for the classrooms at RRJSHS that have been on order have also been misplaced, as is the shipping labels.

The board approved the extra-duty coaching positions for the fall. The district and its teachers, as part of the bargaining agreement they reached last April approved, funds coaching positions based on the viability of each program. That means coaches in boys soccer and cross country will be paid extra-duty stipends, along with two coaches in football and volleyball, which were already paid positions. The only fall sports coaches who are not paid are boys soccer co-coach Bruce Sund and girls soccer head coach Rob Hillesen, who are both members of the school board.

The board adopted the proposed three-year extension of Young's contract as superintendent. The contract extends through the 2018-19 school year. Young has been superintendent since the 2011-12 school year.
School lead testing started back in the 1980s

By Jamie Ramos
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Colton Elementary School employees resign

Colton School District